

It is my earnest hope that even greater numbers of Members will join us in this cause. I think this is an important issue, and I hope we can get every Member of this community, of this Senate, to join with us in this particular cause.

TRIBUTE TO IRA JACKSON "RED" CORNETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a very successful and hard-working Kentuckian, Mr. Ira Jackson Cornett. Ira—known to his friends as "Red"—celebrated his 95th birthday September 12 and is the proud founder and owner of the internationally known engine rebuilding firm, Cornett Machine Shop. Red is extremely proud of his God-given ability to rebuild all types of engines and claims if you can break it, then he can certainly fix it.

Red was born in London, KY, and moved to Oregon with his family when he was young. He later returned to Somerset where in 1948, he bought land and established Cornett Machine Shop, which specializes in the rebuilding of racing engines from all over the world. Over the years, Red's unique skills have been crucial to his success and helped him gain international recognition. Red once sold an engine to Tiger Woods' caddy and shipped it to New Zealand. Another time, Red had the opportunity to rebuild a V-12 airplane engine like the one flown by Eddie Rickenbacker, a famous American fighter ace in World War I. Currently, Cornett Machine Shop is rebuilding a Jones car that was made in Kansas in 1917—a car he feels very few these days realize were ever made.

Red's Cornett Machine Shop has been a successful and reputable business for decades. Now located on a hilltop on the west side of south U.S. 27, the business is still running full tilt and Red has faith the tradition will continue as he has passed along his talents to his sons, David and Jack. However, until then, Red says he plans to keep on going, as he still has a lot of work to do.

Mr. Ira Jackson "Red" Cornett continues to exemplify the character and success that define generation after generation of Kentuckians; I ask unanimous consent that a recent article published in Kentucky's Pulaski County-area Commonwealth Journal that highlights Red's lifelong achievements be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Sept. 22, 2011]

RED CORNETT: ENGINE BUILDER GOING STRONG AT 95

(By Bill Mardis, Editor Emeritus)

"The Lord gave everybody a talent to make a living and a person ought to enjoy doing it."

Ira Jackson Cornett—his friends and everybody call him "Red"—has been using his

God-given talent longer than most people live. He passed his 95th birthday September 12. That's correct. He has been living for nine decades and a half and just keeps on going. "Red" Cornett shows up for work every day at his beloved Cornett Machine Shop.

"I go home for lunch," Cornett reflected. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, is in poor health and he goes home to see about her. They've been married 70 years.

"I've still got a lot of work to do," said Cornett, grinning and guiding his power chair among sophisticated machinery in the sprawling Cornett Machine Shop on South U.S. 27.

Cornett loves to talk about his business. He relaxes in his chair, stopping a moment as he and a visitor toured the plant.

Someone spoke, calling him "Red." He rubbed a hand through a headful of gray hair. "My hair used to be bright red," he laughed. "My whiskers still are . . . and they're thick too."

Cornett Machine Shop is his baby. He loves it. It is part of his life. The internationally known engine rebuilding firm rebuilds engines, all kinds of engines; racing engines; engines from all over the world. "Red" Cornett knows how it works.

"The Lord gave me a talent . . . if you can break it I can fix it," said Cornett. "If nobody else wants to tackle it, I'll do it." He has passed his talents along to son, David, who manages the machine shop, and to Jack, who is in charge of the Racing Division.

"We sold (golfer) Tiger Woods' caddy an engine last week," noted Cornett. "We shipped it to New Zealand. We sent an engine to Bend, Oregon, yesterday."

Recently, Cornett Machine Shop rebuilt a V-12 airplane engine like the one flown by Eddie Rickenbacker, an American fighter ace in World War I. "We built parts for it," Cornett said.

Cornett Machine Shop currently is rebuilding a Jones car made in Kansas in 1917.

"Very few people know there was a Jones car," Cornett laughed. "They were making them back in 1902 and 1903." Nearby was a flathead Ford engine circa 1939-40.

Currently, Cornett Machine Shop has 16 employees. "One fellow has been here for 55 years," Cornett said. "At one time I had about 30 employees," he related. Each employee has his own private air-conditioned room in which to work.

Age has not tempered Cornett's strong opinions. "Young people don't have the same work ethics we have," he declared. "They don't love their work like we do."

Cornett didn't reveal his political persuasion, but he isn't too impressed with the current administration in Washington. "Obama sure has been a disappointment," he offered.

About the economy, Cornett has an unusual perspective. "Things are no higher than they ever were. Money is junk . . . it's getting more worthless."

"I started out on my own in 1948," he recalls. His first machine shop was located on South Main Street. " . . . The telephone company and me were in the same block," he said.

Next, Cornett Machine Shop moved to U.S. 27 where the Tradewind shopping center is now located. "(U.S. 27) was a single lane (each way) then," he remembers. "Finley's (Drive-in) was the next thing that built out there."

"I bought that lot (Tradewind location) for \$2,000," Cornett remembers. "I went to Pope Walker at First and Farmers Bank and he told me I could borrow all the money I needed." Cornett Machine Shop has since located on a hilltop farther south on the west side of U.S. 27, now a six-lane boulevard.

Cornett was born in nearby London but his family moved to Oregon. They later returned to Somerset.

"I worked for the forest service in Idaho for \$7.50 an hour," Cornett recalls. His love for the outdoors has lingered throughout his life. His hobbies are shooting, and big-game hunting. "I've killed moose, elk, deer, antelope and millions of prairie dogs in South Dakota and Montana."

In addition to David and Jack, the Cornett's have two daughters, Mary Ann Bingham who lives in Alabama, and Arlene Warner of Somerset.

Cornett is not letting 95 years stand in his way. "I plan to keep on going. That's my talent; that's what God said for me to do. If you enjoy it, why not?"

TRIBUTE TO JIM MOORE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud and grateful Kentucky veteran. Mr. Jim Moore was born and raised in Laurel County, KY, and takes pride in the many changes he has witnessed over the past 80 years. One of 12 children, Jim grew up on a small farm on McWhorter Road and recalls the tears and triumphs of growing up in Laurel County.

Jim's parents, John and Lillie, provided food from the family farm as well as occasionally peddled on Main Street to make ends meet. Jim's parents set up a booth every year at the Laurel County Fair and sold everything from corn stalks and tobacco to canned goods and bakery products.

Jim, along with his siblings, attended school in a one-room schoolhouse where one teacher taught all subjects to 60-70 students at a time. Jim recalls being expelled from the school on his very first day; Jim's teacher wrote a note to his mother after he deliberately disobeyed the teacher's orders to not leave school grounds. Jim returned to school the next year and began first grade.

Jim also remembers the time when one of the first cars appeared in Laurel County. Jim was in school one afternoon when everyone heard the unfamiliar sound of a car coming down the road. Everyone, including the teacher, ran outside to get a glimpse of it as it drove by. To Jim's surprise, the car was in his driveway when he returned home after school—Jim's Uncle Leslie was the proud owner of the vehicle and had driven it all the way from Oregon. Jim reminisces how his family thought that his uncle was rich because he would make multiple trips to get all 16 members of the family to the Reda movie theater and paid 10 cents per person to get everyone in.

Jim eventually joined the U.S. Army and served for several years before being discharged. Once out of the military, Jim drove a freight truck for 35 years before eventually retiring. Like countless other Kentuckians, Jim cherishes his childhood memories and is very fond of his deep roots in our great Commonwealth.

Madam President, the Laurel County Sentinel Echo recently published an article highlighting Mr. Jim Moore's life and memories. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.